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most celebrated professors of the various sciences, with M. H. Milne-Edwards for president, Messrs. Faye and Wurtz for vice-presidents.

This review will contain not only the reports of the monthly proceedings of the committee, but also summary analyses, or at least notices relative to all the most important scientific works published in France or abroad.

As evidenced by the issue of 1881, this review will prove valuable to students in every department of science; the notices are often very full, amounting to a condensation of the work reviewed; no branch is neglected, and the list of names upon the committee is sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the work.

HOVEY'S CELEBRATED AMERICAN CAVES.¹—This work contains a full and well-written popular account of several of the principal caves of the United States, including Mammoth, Wyandot, Luray, Weyer's, Howe's, etc. Much space is devoted to the Mammoth, which holds its own as by far the largest, grandest and longest of the series of water-worn passages and domes in the limestone strata that has yet been explored. Its known avenues amount to 223, and their length equals 150 miles, though much of this is not entered by visitors. The reader is conducted through fairy grottoes and gothic arcades, among labyrinths and over bottomless pits, until finally he emerges bewildered by the multiplicity and strangeness of the objects to be seen, and enriched by much information respecting the history and scientific aspects of the vast cavern.

Wyandot cave, Indiana, has twenty-three and a half miles of explored avenues, and contains domes and stalactitic formations that equal in beauty those of its larger rival. Weyer's, in the Shenandoah valley, would be considered a wonderful cave, were it not for the fairy scenes offered by the newer and neighboring Luray.

These caves are but the largest known out of thousands that stud the limestone regions of Kentucky, Virginia and Indiana, proofs of the power of water, impregnated with carbonic acid, in wearing away the solid rock to the drainage level. In this region every hill has its face grooved and furrowed, and the small streams disappear down sink-holes into the caverns below, to gather together and reappear at the foot of the bluffs, as strong springs or small rivers.

The fauna of the Mammoth cave, with its thirty-six species, is rich compared with that of Luray, which consist only of a few bats, rats, spiders, flies and a single myriopod (*Synopopus whitei*). The curious *Mucor stalactitis* Hovey, occurs also in this cave.

¹*Celebrated American Caverns*, especially Mammoth, Wyandot and Luray, together with historical, scientific and descriptive notices of caves and grottoes in other lands. By HORACE C. HOVEY. With maps and illustrations. Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co., 1882.

The work commences with chapters upon the structure and varieties of caverns, the mineral, animal and vegetable contents of caves and cave dwellings, sepulchres and temples. In these chapters a large number of valuable facts respecting the caverns of various parts of the world, whether in limestone or other rocks, are brought together.

The descriptions are accompanied by the most authentic maps and by numerous illustrations, many of them sketched under the author's direction, by J. Barton Smith, of New Haven, Conn. The writer deserves great credit, not only for information so pleasantly imparted, but for his endeavor to give, wherever practicable, precise dimensions. Under rigorous measurement, Howe's cavern, N. Y., shrinks from seven, twelve, or even eighteen miles to three, yet the wonders of its Crystal lake and Winding way undergo no real shrinkage, and underground beauties generally do not need the inflations of fancy more than those of the upper region.

A few errors in dealing with old world places are the worst blemish of the book; the author makes cavern-temples of Karnac and Luxor, while he omits all mention of Ispambul, and speaks of the Grotto Azzuro of Capri as under "*the brilliant skies of Greece!*"

He also fails to notice Cope's reports of cave expeditions in Southwestern Virginia in 1869, and of the Port Kennedy, the Durham and the Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, caves, explored by Wheatley, Cope and Leidy.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—Celebrated American Caverns, especially Mammoth, Wyandot and Luray, together with historical, scientific and descriptive notices of caves and grottoes in other lands. By Horace C. Hovey. Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co., 1882. From the publishers.

Injurious Insects of the farm and garden. By Mary Treat. New York, Orange Judd Company, 1882. From the author.

Discovery of Tripoli near St. John. Dr. L. C. Allison's lecture describing the organisms which produce it, and Mr. G. F. Matthew's remarks on the uses to which it is applied, before the Natural History Society of N. Brunswick, 3d May, 1881.

Somewhat about a few medicinal plants of New Brunswick. By Dr. G. M. Duncan, of Bathurst. Before the Natural History Society of N. B., April, 1881.

A. Rozsagubaes Fejlődéséről. Paszlavsky József, Reáliskolai Tanártól. (On the Bedeguar of the Rose. By Joseph Puszlavsky, professor in the Imperial schools.) Buda-Pest, 1882. From the author.

Geological Map of the United States. Compiled by C. H. Hitchcock. New York, Julius Bien, 1881. From the author.

Life and Writings of Frank Forester (Henry William Herbert). Edited by David W. Judd. Vols. I and II. New York, Orange Judd & Co., 1882. From the editor.

American Game Bird Shooting. By John Mortimer Murphy. New York, Orange Judd & Co., 1882.

The Coues' Check-list of North American Birds. Second edition, revised to date, and entirely rewritten under direction of the author, with a dictionary of the etymology, orthography and orthoepy of the scientific names. Boston, Estes & Laureat, 1882. From the author.